



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5215

LCO No. 1679



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF CLIMATE CHANGE
INSTRUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-16b of the 2020 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

4 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
5 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
6 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
7 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
8 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
9 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
10 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
11 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
12 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
13 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
14 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
15 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use

16 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
17 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
18 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
19 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
20 education; science, [which may include the] including climate change
21 [curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section] consistent with
22 the Next Generation Science Standards, as adopted by the State Board
23 of Education pursuant to section 10-4; social studies, including, but not
24 limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history and
25 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance with
26 the provisions of section 10-18f; computer science, including, but not
27 limited to, computer programming instruction; and in addition, on at
28 least the secondary level, one or more world languages and vocational
29 education. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall
30 include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is
31 taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who
32 holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes
33 of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing
34 arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and
35 theatre.

36 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take
37 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
38 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
39 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
40 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

41 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
42 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
43 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
44 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
45 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
46 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

47 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
48 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional

49 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
50 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
51 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
52 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
53 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
54 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
55 history; (4) Puerto Rican history; (5) Native American history; (6)
56 personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial
57 literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (7)
58 training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic
59 external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law, including organized
60 labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the
61 workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and
62 entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the
63 development of the American and world economies; (9) climate change
64 consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (10) topics
65 approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards
66 of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to
67 subsection (a) of this section; and (11) instruction relating to the Safe
68 Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive. The Department of
69 Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available to each local
70 and regional board of education for the development of curriculum on
71 climate change as described in this subsection.

72 Sec. 2. Section 10-16b of the 2020 supplement to the general statutes,
73 as amended by section 1 of public act 19-12, is repealed and the
74 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

75 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
76 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
77 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
78 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
79 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
80 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
81 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
82 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in

83 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
84 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
85 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
86 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
87 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
88 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
89 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
90 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
91 education; science, [which may include the] including climate change
92 [curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section] consistent with
93 the Next Generation Science Standards, as adopted by the State Board
94 of Education pursuant to section 10-4; social studies, including, but not
95 limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history and
96 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance with
97 the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black studies in
98 accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and
99 Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss;
100 computer programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the
101 secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education;
102 and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with the
103 provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this
104 subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language,
105 provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under
106 the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State
107 Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means
108 any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be
109 limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

110 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take
111 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
112 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
113 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
114 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

115 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
116 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the

117 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
118 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
119 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
120 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

121 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
122 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
123 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
124 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
125 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
126 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
127 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
128 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
129 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
130 American history; (6) personal financial management, including, but not
131 limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under
132 section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the
133 use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law,
134 including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing
135 legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free
136 market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and
137 capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;
138 (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science
139 Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
140 local or regional boards of education as part of the program of
141 instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11)
142 instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,
143 inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
144 shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the
145 development of curriculum on climate change as described in this
146 subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10-16b

Sec. 2	July 1, 2021	10-16b
--------	--------------	--------

Statement of Purpose:

To include climate change instruction in the public school curriculum of the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]